
State of Illinois New Pattern

By Bob Combs (LM24)

After a few telephone calls and waiting for the mail to come in, I am pleased to announce that there is indeed a new verified perfin machine being used by the State of Illinois.

As reported earlier, the new “I” pattern is smaller, 8 mm by 4.5 mm (3 hole top), as compared to the Old pattern (I 12.5) which measures 8.8 mm by 7 mm (4 hole top). Note that all measurements are from the outside of a hole to the outside of a hole.

From correspondence with the CMS Bureau Manager and the helpful ladies of the CMS Mail and Messenger Services, the following information was obtained. “The State of Illinois has been using a perfin machine since 1957 on its outgoing state business mails. Every postage stamp purchased by the State of Illinois, Central Management Services (for all state agencies, bureaus, boards, commissions, the General Assembly and universities) must bear

the initial (I) , and must be used for state business only. The State of Illinois purchased the current (*new*) machine in May 2001 from American Perforator Company, Bridgeview, Illinois. They also maintain a back up machine (I 12.5) made by Cummins Allison”.

The new machine produces a 12 pattern punch (3 rows of 4 patterns in each row). Studying the patterns, it does look like row 3 pattern 1 has a slight tilt to the bottom line of dots, lowest side to the beginning of the row (8.14 mm degrading to 8.00 mm). The rest of the patterns seem fairly close to each other and do not (*from my humble eye*) appear to have any variances.

So, it looks like we do have another Perfin pattern to go out and find for our collections. Good luck in obtaining one for yours.

Row 1



Row 2



Row 3



Editor’s note: First notice of this pattern was given by Bob in the January/February 2002 Bulletin. Unfortunately the illustration led to some confusion. Unlike the illustration above, all three stamps on the cover shown in that article had four pin tops and bottoms on the character ‘I’ – they appear to be pattern I2.5. The letter printed in Stan Grabowski’s article in the April Bulletin included information from a November 2000 letter which predated the May 2001 purchase of this new perforator.